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BOOK REVIEW

MEDICAL AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY. William B. Herms. A textbook for use in schools and colleges as well as a handbook for the use of physicians, veterinarians and public health officials. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915. xii + 393 pages. 228 figures. \$4.00.

There have been a number of textbooks published for the use of students and others dealing with arthropods and the transmission of disease during the past five or six years. The present volume differs from the most of these in that it introduces the subject with a concise description of parasitism and the morphology of the parts that have to do with transmission. This includes a statement as to the classes of parasites, the effect and origin of parasitism, and a tabulation with figures of the systematic position of animal parasites. There is a brief discussion of the internal anatomy, classification and metamorphosis of insects, with good illustrations of the various types. It is unfortunate that the author has introduced new names for the three types, as there are too many already. In practically all the insects that have to do with the transmission of disease, the mouth-parts are fitted for piercing or sucking. The derivation of this type from the simpler biting type is shown in detail, not only for those groups that are known to suck blood, but for all others. This is supplemented by a list of the orders arranged according to their type of mouth, together with a statement as to their type of metamorphosis. Such a treatment is to be commended, for the sucking type of mouth is distinctive in form and structure in each group where it occurs. The following sixteen chapters discuss fully: how insects cause and carry disease, direct and indirect infection, external and internal parasites; the life-history, habits and relation to disease of common household insects; the biting and sucking lice infesting domestic animals and man; the life-history, habits and relation to disease of the bedbug and cone-nose; the transmission of malaria, yellow fever and other diseases by mosquitoes, their habits, life-history and control; buffalo-gnats and their relation to pellagra; the house-fly and its relation to the transmission of intestinal diseases, together with measures for its control; the blood-sucking muscids and their relation to sleeping sickness and poliomyelitis; myiasis and the bot-flies; fleas and the transmission of bubonic plague; ticks and tick-borne diseases; mites as skin parasites; and the venom of bees, wasps, spiders and scorpions. There are also included analytical tables for the identification of adult mosquitoes, the families of the dipterous larvae producing myiasis, and the families and some of the genera of fleas.

The book can be recommended for its figures, most of them new, and for its carefully prepared, well-balanced subject-matter.

NOTE

Special courses in parasitology with emphasis upon field and experimental work are announced by Dr. George R. LaRue in the program of the Michigan University Biological Station at Douglas Lake for the summer of 1917.